Radiological and Nuclear Threats: an Overview

Sara C. Scott

Los Alamos National Laboratory
Center for Homeland Security

Why are radiological and nuclear threats a concern?

- Material and expertise resources
 - Accumulation of materials, for example
 - Orphan radiological sources
 - Nuclear power industry
 - Excess weapons materials
- Nuclear weapons information in public venues
- Financial resources available to terrorist organizations
- Increasing threshold for terror

VIOLENCE TRENDS



RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES

probability consequence

Radiological
Dispersal
Device (RDD)

Industrial Isotopes

Medical Isotopes

Nuclear Waste



Radiological Dispersal

Stolen or Improvised Nuclear Weapon

Dud

HE Dispersal

Fizzle Yield

Nuclear Yield



Radiological Hazard

Physical Destruction

What are some specific concerns?

"We continue to receive information indicating that al-Qa'ida still seeks chemical biological, radiological and nuclear weapons. Last year I also discussed al-Qa'ida's efforts to obtain nuclear and radiological materials as part of an ambitious nuclear agenda. One year later, we continue to follow every lead in tracking terrorist efforts to obtain nuclear materials."

George Tenet, Director of Central Intelligence
February 11, 2003

What can we do to address these threats?

Threat Assessment

Prevention/Denial

Response

Consequence Management

Attribution

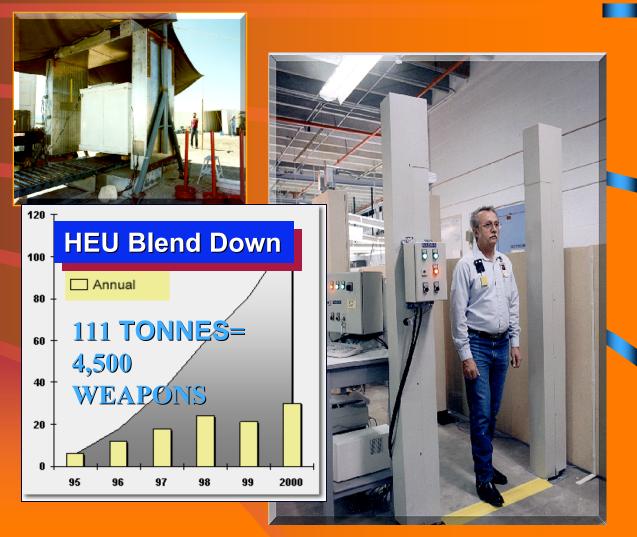
- Understand potential threats and our vulnerabilities
- Deny access to nuclear materials, controlled technology, needed infrastructure
- Detect threat development activities or threats in transit
- Develop and implement crisis response and consequence management tools



DENY ACCESS TO NUCLEAR MATERIALS







DENY DEVELOPMENTAL **SANCTUARIES**

DETECT, LOCATE, CHARACTERIZE, RENDER SAFE



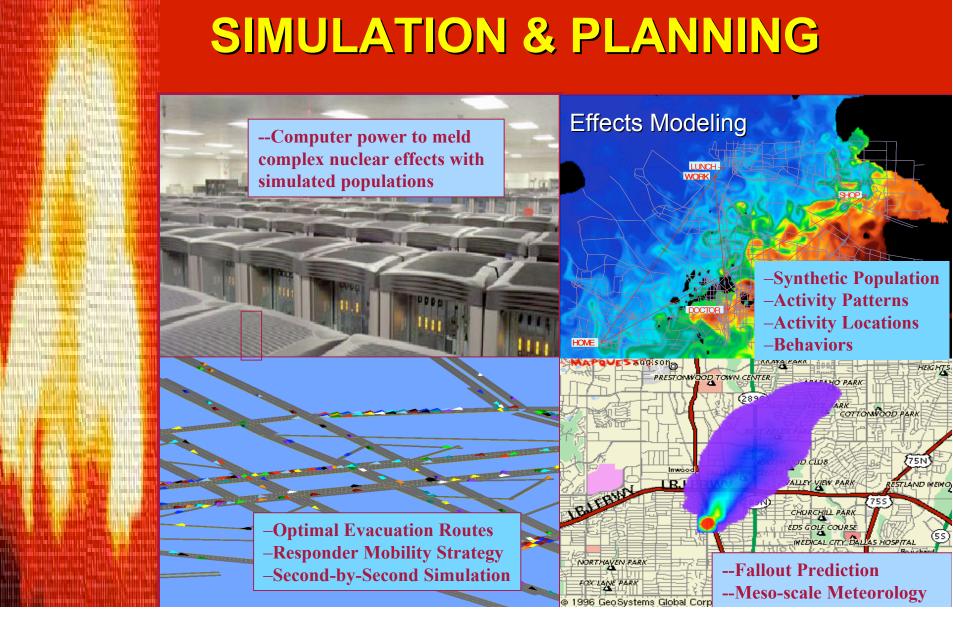


Train Portal Monitor at the Astrakhan Seaport on the Caspian Sea

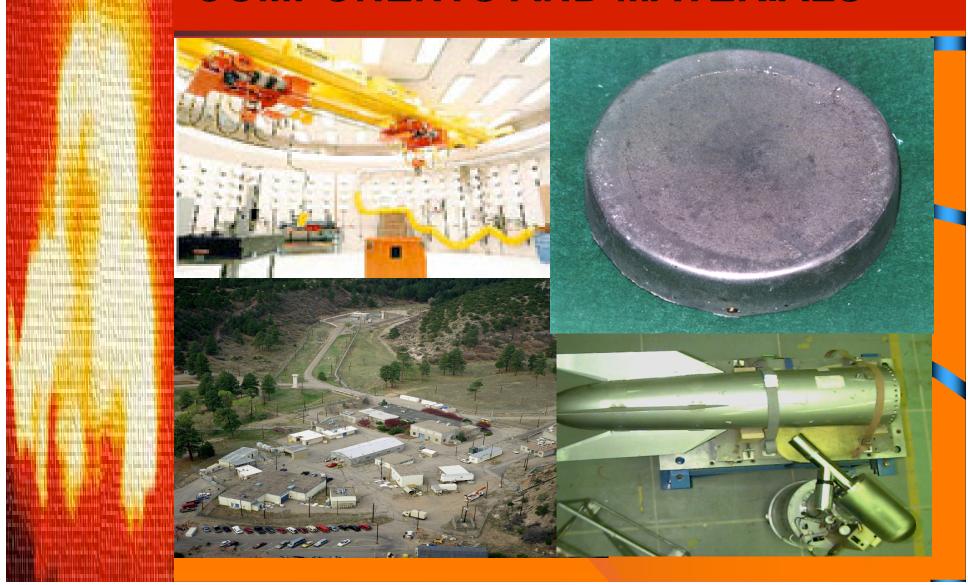








TRAINING WITH REALISTIC COMPONENTS AND MATERIALS



Summary

- Nuclear and radiological threats have been identified and are a real concern
- It is imperative that we address these threats
 - near-term implementation of available resources/capabilities
 - longer-term efforts to assure all needed capabilities are available
- Well-coordinated, layered approach is essential

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